

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHIEF JUDGE MICHAEL DAVIS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the years of service of U.S. District Court Chief Judge Michael Davis as he retires and assumes senior status in August 2015. Educated at Macalester College in St. Paul, and the University of Minnesota Law School, Chief Judge Davis has dedicated his career to advancing the highest justice and integrity within the legal community. From his early work as law clerk for the Legal Rights Center from 1971 to 1973, to his time as an attorney in Social Security Administration in Baltimore, to a criminal defense lawyer for the Neighborhood Justice Center in 1974, Chief Judge Davis has upheld the principled defense of equal justice under the law.

Returning to the Legal Rights Center as an attorney in 1975, and in his later work as an attorney for the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission, he continued his commitment to legal excellence. As a Judge for the Hennepin County Municipal Court, he earned a reputation as a strong legal mind with a firm devotion to justice. His service to the community and legal profession has helped to ensure open and equitable access to justice.

Davis's contribution to the founding of the Pro Se Project in May 2009, which helps provide litigants in Minnesota with a volunteer attorney, demonstrates his passion for fair access to legal counsel for all. His influence in the international arena has taken him to Egypt, Uganda, and Senegal, where he has offered insight on intellectual property law from an American perspective. His travels to Saudi Arabia, which facilitated the travel of a group of Saudi Judges to the United States to learn about the United States justice system, has no doubt enriched the understandings of the global judicial community.

As a leader in the community, Davis has championed the court's involvement in outreach and education, including the 2013 Dred Scott Project. This collaboration between the Minnesota District Court, the Minnesota chapter of the Federal Bar Association, the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, and the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department included bringing historical presentations to high school classrooms in Bloomington and the installation of a new plaque for the Dred Scott Playing Fields.

Chief Judge Davis has worked tirelessly to educate and inspire future generations of attorneys and judges as an instructor and professor at the William Mitchell School of Law, the University of Minnesota Law School, and the Minnesota Institute of Legal Education. In 1993, he was nominated for federal judicial service as a Judge in the U.S. District Court of Minnesota by President Bill Clinton. He has served as the first African-American Chief

Judge of the District of Minnesota since 2008. As Chief Judge of the district, Judge Davis has brought diversity and compassionate deliberation to the courts, while presiding over pressing budgetary issues and a demanding case-load.

Chief Judge Davis has led an outstandingly impactful career, defined by his impassioned pursuit of integrity under the law and service to his community. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG-KIMMEL INSTITUTE FOR CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the establishment of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. I personally look forward to all of the innovative programs that they will establish and the lives they will save. This cutting-edge treatment will revolutionize cancer treatment. This form of medicine works to harness the body's existing immune system to destroy cancerous cells, without harming healthy ones, as an effective treatment against nearly all solid tumors.

This year funding for the National Institutes of Health was \$32.1 billion, a \$2 billion increase over the year before. This increase is in no small part due to the diligence and perseverance of Vice President BIDEN who is spearheading the White House's Cancer Moonshot. Increased funding in cancer research will allow for more research into precision medicine programs, which will help develop even more personalized technologies expand their reach. I know this generation can be the one to cure cancer, and it is due to outstanding research institutions such as the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy.

Once again, I would like to thank Johns Hopkins for their commitment to fighting cancer and congratulate them on the establishment of this new center. I look forward to witnessing their important strides and breakthroughs in the field of cancer research. Thank you (Mahalo).

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Women Airforce Service Pilots, known as WASPs.

These women were remarkable, flying 78 different types of military aircraft for the United States Army Air Forces during World War II. They were stationed throughout the United States—281 WASPs served at 16 Army Air Bases in my home state of California. And of the 1,074 graduated pilots, 193 of them were Californians. WASPs contributed invaluable to the War effort, answering their nation's call when there was a shortage of male pilots. They flew over 60 million miles of operation flights, right alongside their male counterparts. But despite their patriotism and selfless service, they did not receive Veteran's Status until 1977.

"Service to country" is the common thread that binds all who are remembered and honored at Arlington National Cemetery. Yet even today, these heroes are not afforded the tribute of being laid to rest there. I have cosponsored bipartisan legislation that would allow the Women Airforce Service Pilots to be inurned at Arlington. And I will continue to advocate for the rights of these pioneers.

March is Women's History Month, and these women shaped our history in so many ways. They were fearless aviators, they proved that they were just as capable as male pilots, and they began to knock down gender barriers. They paved the way to opening up all combat roles to women in the military.

It is my distinct honor to recognize these women, their accomplishments, and the impact they have had on our Nation's history.

WELCOMING HOME OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable Americans who served in the Vietnam war. These heroes never received the proper "welcome home" they deserved, so I want to take a moment to recognize each of them and thank them for their service and sacrifice.

Over three million Americans fought in Vietnam, in addition to countless others who served in various support roles. These individuals left the loving arms of their families and the comfort of their homes to fight for a cause greater than any one person. The fight was not an easy one and the conditions were especially daunting, but they chose to put their lives on the line in defense of freedom and so others may live.

Sadly, some of these American heroes never made the return home. Over 55,000 patriots paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving our great nation. These individuals are now enshrined in our nation's history on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in our nation's capital, and their legacy will never be forgotten.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention the sacrifice of our military families who saw

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

someone they loved go away to war. I'm talking about the newlywed wife whose husband departed just months after their marriage. I'm talking about the young toddler who barely knew their father before they deployed. I'm talking about the mom and dad who shed tears as their young child left to join the fight. I'm talking about each and every family member who had someone they loved fight in Vietnam. They sacrificed so much and deserve to be commended as well.

Mr. Speaker, today we salute those who served our nation in Vietnam, and, on behalf of a grateful nation, we thank them for their patriotism and service. May we never forget their sacrifice, may God bless our veterans, and may God always bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be at votes on the evening of March 14, 2016 because my flight from Portland, Oregon, was delayed. If I had been present, I would have voted for passage of S. 2426, H. Con. Res. 75, and H. Con. Res. 121, all of which passed the House under suspension of the rules.

S. 2426, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, would move Taiwan closer to having access to the International Criminal Police Organization's (INTERPOL) global police communication system. In November 2015, I voted for a similar bill, H.R. 1853, and I support policies that further Taiwan's participation in international relations.

H. Con. Res. 75, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that atrocities committed by ISIL against religious and ethnic minorities are "war crimes," "crimes against humanity," "genocide" passed the House unanimously. I support the resolution, and I would have voted for it if I had been present.

H. Con. Res. 121, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress condemning the gross violations of international law amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity by the Government of Syria, its allies, and other parties to the conflict in Syria, passed the House by a vote of 392–3, and I would have voted for the bill if I had been present. The atrocities committed against the citizens of Syria are appalling and inhumane, and I strongly condemn them.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP OF NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE

HON. CRESENT HARDY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of five of the most outstanding leaders in our United States Air Force.

These five men, Major General Jay Silveria, Brigadier General Christopher Short, Colonel

Richard Boutwell, Colonel Thomas Dempsey, and Colonel Aaron Steffens, have all served with honor and distinction at Nellis Air Force Base back in my district in southern Nevada.

For those who do not know, Nellis Air Force Base is the most important asset in our Air Force. So important, in fact, that there is the oft repeated slogan that, "As goes Nellis, so goes the United States Air Force."

And this isn't just some clever saying. Nellis is home to the Air Force's most advanced and realistic schools and training exercises. It is truly the epicenter of the three T's: testing, tactics, and training.

With the vast array of resources and missions carried out at the base, our Airmen are able to take the fight to our enemies with the full force and power of the world's greatest Air Force.

As a freshman Member of Congress, I could not have asked for a better cadre of officers to lead the many young servicemembers who call my district home. Their principled leadership and dogged determination to achieve excellence in every facet of their mission is truly an inspiration to everyone in our community.

It has been a privilege to develop strong working relationships with each of these commanders, and to seek their informed counsel on some of the most pressing issues affecting the readiness and capabilities of our Air Force as well as our national security priorities.

While I am sad to see them go, I know that they will bring the same integrity and leadership to their new commands.

To Tonto, Junior, Chase, Vader, and Fangs, the nation is grateful for your service, and I wish you all the best.

Aim High.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus in this critical fight to ensure full voting rights for all Americans.

I'd like to thank my colleagues, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY, and Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES for organizing this special order and for their dedicated leadership in protecting the right of all Americans to vote.

I'd also like to thank Chairman G. K. BUTTERFIELD for his leadership of our caucus as we work to ensure equality and democracy for all American families.

Mr. Speaker, since 2013, when the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in their *Shelby County v. Holder* decision, too many Americans have seen their voting rights weakened and undermined.

This year, as we celebrated the 51st anniversary of the historic civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, the very progress we celebrated was under attack.

This year, 16 states have enacted new voting restrictions for the first time in a presidential election since the Voting Rights Act was made law more than 50 years ago. These new barriers range from unnecessary voter ID laws, to ending same-day voter registration, and reducing or completely eliminating early voting.

Since 2010, 21 states have implemented new restrictions. This is a crisis.

While states have put up barriers, Speaker RYAN, Judiciary Chairman GOODLATTE and some Congressional Republicans have ignored the clear, bipartisan consensus to fix the Voting Rights Act and restore voting rights protections for all Americans.

Republican Congressman JAMES SENSENBRENNER has introduced the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act (H.R. 885), which I am proud to co-sponsor with more than 100 other Members of Congress. This is a good first step to restoring voting protections for all Americans.

But let me be clear—simply fixing the Voting Rights Act isn't enough.

We need to empower voters and Congresswoman SEWELL's bill—the Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 2867)—would do just that.

It's past time that Congress got serious about protecting voting rights and passing the Voting Rights Advancement Act—and we are here to support these efforts.

Our work is not over until the voice of every American is heard. So I join my colleagues in the CBC tonight to implore our colleagues in the House to work harder to protect the bedrock of our democracy—the right to vote.

DEFINING CERTAIN ATROCITIES AS WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2016

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I co-sponsored and will vote for H. Con. Res. 75 because of my grave concern about the genocide against Christians, Alawites, Shiites, Druze, Yazidis, and other religious minorities in Syria. However, I was extremely disappointed by amendment language later added to this resolution in Committee that provides "cover" or an excuse for ISIS and other terrorist organizations committing this genocide.

Specifically, the language I object to is the following: "Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's violence against the Syrian people has attracted foreign fighters from around the world, who have supported and committed ISIL atrocities."

I fully reject this amendment to the resolution which gives moral legitimacy to the actions of ISIS, al-Qaeda, and others who are committing genocide against Christians, Yazidis, and other religious minorities in Syria.

This amendment is an obvious attempt to make ISIS look like their cause is legitimate. This is unacceptable and undermines the heart of this resolution.

This is very unfortunate because the problem of genocide against Christians, Yazidis, and other religious minorities in Syria is very serious. The main area in Syria where Christians and other religious minorities have any protection from being slaughtered, and where they can practice their own religious faiths without fear of persecution, is in the territory controlled by the Syrian government of Assad.